PROPOSED LIBRARY FOR VICTORIA COLLEGE

QUEEN'S PARK TORONTO

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FOR
VICTORIA COLLEGE

QUEEN'S PARK · TORONTO

PERSPECTIVE FROM NORTH DRIVE

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Proposed Library for Victoria College

QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO

To the Members of the Methodist Church:

THE Board of Regents present this pamphlet regarding the proposed Library Building for Victoria College, for information and record, but more particularly in connection with their urgent appeal for subscriptions for a total of $25,000, the sum necessary to carry out the project.

Through the beneficence of Mr. Andrew Carnegie a sum of $50,000 was made available for the building, and in accordance with the terms of his subscription, a further amount of $50,000 in approved first mortgages on real estate was provided as an Endowment Fund for the Library, principally through the generosity of Mr. Cyrus A. Birge, of Hamilton, Ontario. The interest upon these securities, say, $2,500, is to provide for running expenses of the Library and purchase of books.

Thus equipped, the Board of Regents appointed a strong Building Committee, with power to engage architects to prepare, first, a general plan of the College grounds, so that the site of the Library Building would be determined in relation not only to the main Victoria College building and Annesley Hall, but also to all buildings likely to be associated with Victoria College in future, so far as could be foreseen. In the second place, the architects were, after full consultation, to prepare interior and exterior plans of the proposed building.

For the Library Building competitive plans were secured from three firms of architects, with the result that the Building Committee recommended to the Board of Regents the employment of Messrs. Sproatt & Rolph. The Building Committee have given protracted and pains-taking attention to perfecting the plans, and their findings were carefully considered by the Board. It was decided that the Library Building, if erected, should be placed on the south-east corner of North Drive and Charles Street; a plan of grounds was placed on record for further consideration when any additional building should be in active contemplation, and the Building Committee were authorized, conditional upon satisfactory financial arrangements being made, to proceed, with Messrs. Sproatt & Rolph as architects, to erect the Building, subject to such minor alterations before letting contracts as might be decided upon by the Committee.

The Board thus present for your consideration the plan of grounds referred to, and the interior and exterior plans of the Library Building.

In determining the interior plans, most careful thought was given both to present requirements and growth for a few years ahead. Accordingly, while a false economy might have permitted a cutting down of space still further, there is no waste room, and your Board feel that they would be at fault if they were not now to provide for what in a very few years will be urgently necessary.

As to the exterior, much consideration was given to the adoption of a style which would not only be satisfactory for the Library itself, but would give the keynote for future buildings. The style adopted is Perpendicular Gothic, the walls to be of grey Credit Valley rubble stone. While no style is more effective, there is probably

none in stone construction less costly. The Board now submit the plans, with confidence that the simple and charming dignity of the lines of the building, coupled with the happy blending of an entirely suitable interior, with a fine elevation, carries its own commendation. The flavor of Old Oxford will, they are sure, not be distasteful to the people of this province.

It is probably not generally appreciated, even by Methodists, that the single Victoria College Building, erected when the College was transplanted from Cobourg in 1892 and became federated with the University of Toronto, though a commodious and handsome structure, is only the nucleus of what must become an extensive group. In 1902 Annesley Hall was erected, and now, if the Library is undertaken, the College will have a total of three buildings. In rather quick succession to these, however, should be added a Residence for Men, a Chapel, and, probably a little later, a Divinity Hall.

Whether this group of buildings shall be creditable to Methodism, to the City and to the Province, is vitally involved in the character of the Library Building now in contemplation.

The Board of Regents invite the earnest attention of every member of the Methodist Church to the contents of this pamphlet, so that the urgent need of such a building may be clearly realized, not only because of its importance to the students of the College and ministers and others to whom its facilities will be available, but also because of its value as a depository for all kinds of documents relating to the history of the Church.

COST OF LIBRARY BUILDING

It has been found that the cost of the Library Building, with stack room, equipped in accordance with these plans, will approximate $75,000, and it is, therefore, necessary to provide $25,000, to supplement Mr. Carnegie's gift.

If bona fide subscriptions be procured, payable in full or in three annual instalments, totalling $25,000, the Board of Regents will feel justified in authorizing commencement of the work, and furnishing such amount as may have to be advanced on this account, to be repaid, principal and interest, from such subscriptions.

A subscription form is inserted herein, and it is confidently hoped that you will evidence your interest in this most important project and take a liberal view of the call it has upon your support. Please fill in your subscription form, and mail it to Prof. A. E. Lang, Librarian Victoria College, Toronto.

ACCOMMODATION

The following indicates the accommodation which the new building would provide:

GROUND FLOOR

Men's Reading Room, 29 x 55, and 22 feet high, seating capacity between 80 and 100.

Women's Reading Room, 22 x 44, to seat about 50.

Librarian's Room, Cataloguing Room, Magazine Room and Faculty Room, each 17 x 17.

Book delivery, 15 x 17. Vault 5 x 7, two lavatories, space for card catalogue and reference books.

FIRST FLOOR

Five Seminary Rooms, varying in size from 14 x 17 to 20 x 23.

Room for persons, other than students, consulting the Library, 17 x 23.

Four Research Rooms, each 8 x 12.

One Store Room, 8 x 10.

BASEMENT

Boiler and coalpit. Unpacking room, 17 x 17. Book Bureau, 13 x 26. Men's cloak room, 22 x 33. Men's lavatory, 14 x 20. Women's cloak room, 15 x 20. Women's lavatory, 8 x 20. Cloak room and lavatory for attendants. Room for caretaker with lavatory and unassigned room, 28 x 29. Vault, 5 x 7.

Stack room fire-proof, with steel shelving and accommodation for about 65,000 volumes.

The reading rooms are situated so as to insure perfect quiet and freedom from disturbance from students changing books and from messengers and casual visitors.

The stairs are situated near the entrances, and give access to the seminary rooms above and to the cloak rooms below, so that the traffic along the corridor between the delivery desk and the reading rooms is minimized. Special regard has been had to insure a maximum distribution of natural light in all the working parts of the Library.

The plans provide adequately for future growth, both in the matter of stack room and of accommodation of students. The stack room can be extended indefinitely along Charles Street, and additional accommodation for students can be furnished by extensions southward on North Drive. Such extensions could be made

without sacrifice of any of the architectural features which have appealed so strongly to the Board.

USES OF THE LIBRARY

A properly equipped library is a vital factor in connection with any important college, but its value is enhanced to a considerable extent when in association with a college under church auspices.

A college without a library is unthinkable, and provision was made for this in a comparatively large room of Victoria College when the College moved from Cobourg to Toronto in 1892. This provision, while a fair one at the time, has not only been outgrown, so far as the library itself is concerned, but the increased demand on the space of the main building has made it necessary either to have a separate library building or to enlarge the main College building.

In the new building it is intended to provide not only for accommodation of students, but also to have facilities provided and a special room set apart for members of the ministry, not only in Toronto, but throughout the Province, and for the alumnæ of the College. It is proposed to make the Library an useful centre for reference and research work on a scale more nearly adequate than has been possible heretofore.

GROWTH OF THE COLLEGE

The following figures of growth illustrate the necessity for relief from pressure upon present facilities:

	1892	1908
Number of Students.....	157	497
" " Professorial Staff	10	22
" " Bound Volumes.....	6,000	20,000

THE LIBRARY AS A DEPOSITORY

In addition to the more immediate function of the Library as a laboratory for the students, there is another phase that should appeal directly and convincingly to every Methodist in the Dominion. In the course of time this Library has naturally become the depository of all kinds of documents relating to Methodism in general, and in particular the history of the Methodist Church in Canada. All the various interests of the Church along missionary, educational and other lines are here represented by official and non-official reports. Material relating to the various branches of the work before the union and the vast activities of the Church since, are here collected and preserved. The material which the Library already possesses could not be duplicated to-day, and forms a priceless storehouse of facts, from which future historians will gain their conception of the Church of their fathers. It is highly important to the Church that this work should be vigorously maintained, which it would be practically impossible to do with the existing accommodation. Every addition of such material, no matter how important and intrinsically valuable, imposes further pressure on our already over-crowded shelves. What the librarian is anxious to be able to do is to classify and arrange all relevant material so as to make it readily accessible, and place it at the disposal of all who are interested. Nowhere else has the Church such a body of history as it already possesses here: nowhere else can the work be done more advantageously than in this Library if the proper equipment is furnished. It may be mentioned that requests for information from many quarters, both at home and abroad, are constantly being made to the library, and every attempt is made to furnish the desired information.

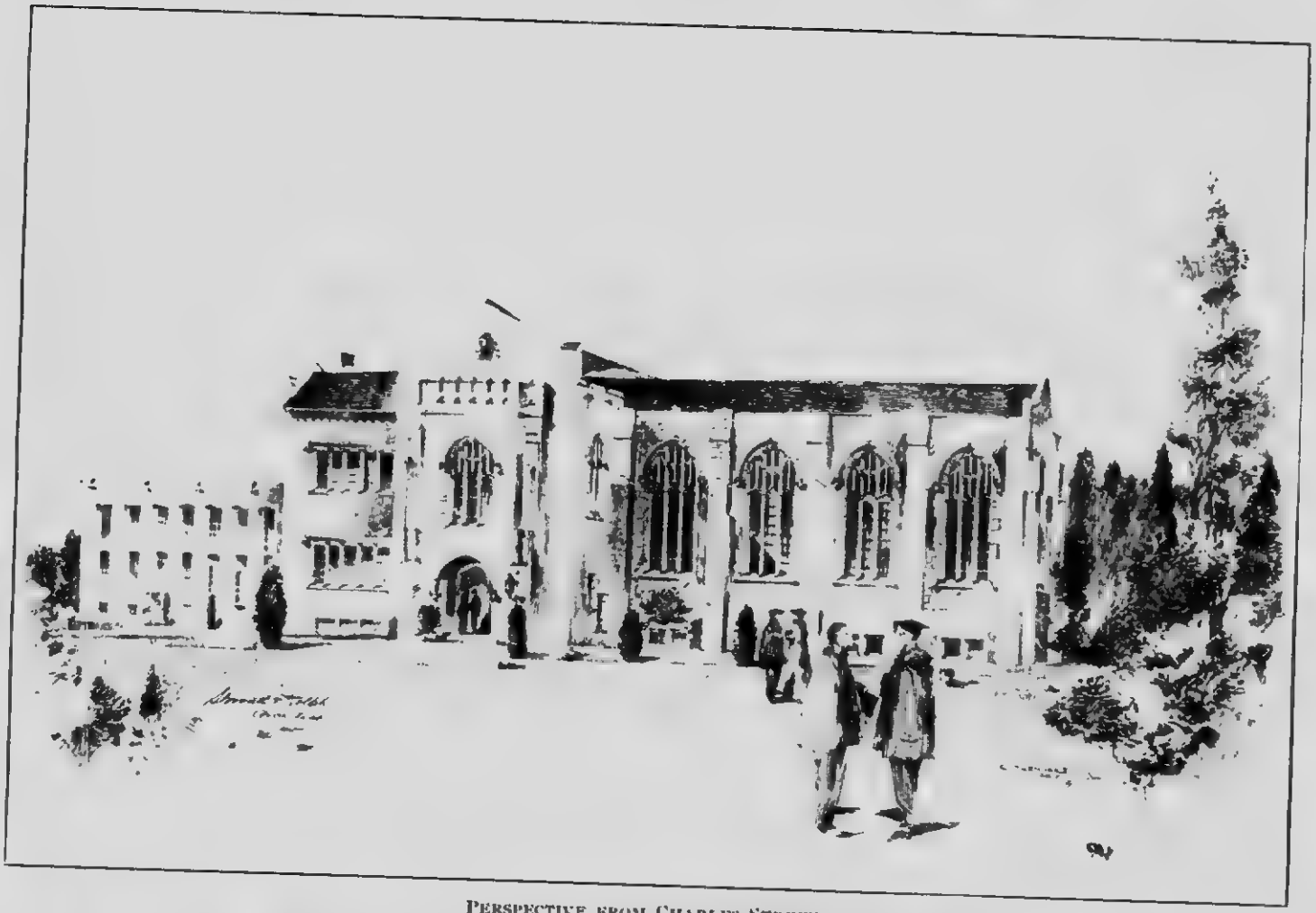
This Library has never made a direct appeal to the Methodist Church for financial assistance. It has struggled along, making the best of its limited resources, accepting the sacrifices of its friends, and allowing other interests to take precedence. It has now reached a stage in its development where the Church should be taken into its confidence, and asked to share the burden. The new Library Building furnishes this opportunity. It will give a permanent home to our priceless possessions, and place them beyond ordinary risk of destruction, by fire or otherwise. It will make it possible to arrange our material, so that it may be instantly available to all, and, finally, it will put us in a position to welcome cordially all documents that bear, even remotely, on the history of our Church. If it were generally known that such an institution was in a position to care for all such documents, it would bring us much valuable material that is now scattered over the length and breadth of the land, and in danger of being permanently lost or destroyed.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT ?

The amount needed to complete the building, according to the plans which have been accepted by the Board, is practically $25,000—not a large sum if every Methodist realizes the importance of the work. How much of this responsibility will you assume ?

N. BURWASH, H. H. FUDGER,
GEO. A. COX, E. R. WOOD,
C. D. MASSEY, A. E. AME ;,

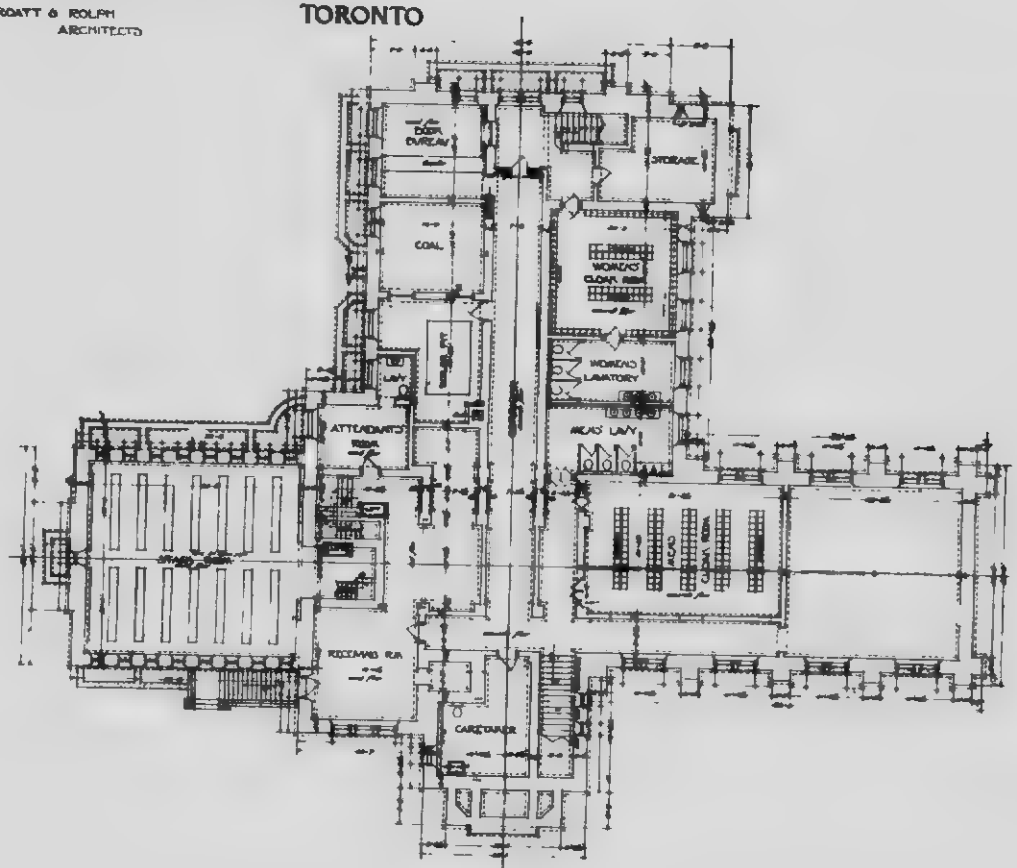
Finance Committee of the Board of Regents.



PERSPECTIVE FROM CHARLES STREET

LIBRARY FOR VICTORIA COLLEGE
TORONTO

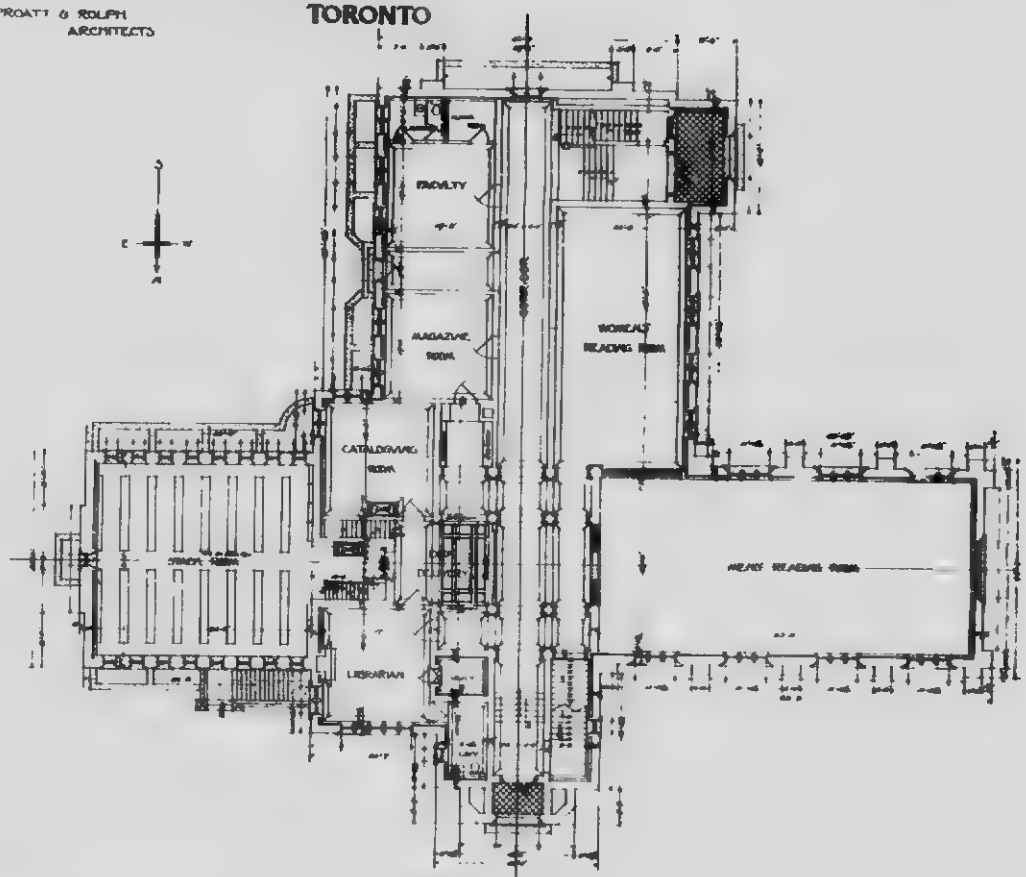
SPROATT & ROLPH
ARCHITECTS



BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE 1/8 IN = 1 FT

LIBRARY FOR VICTORIA COLLEGE
TORONTO

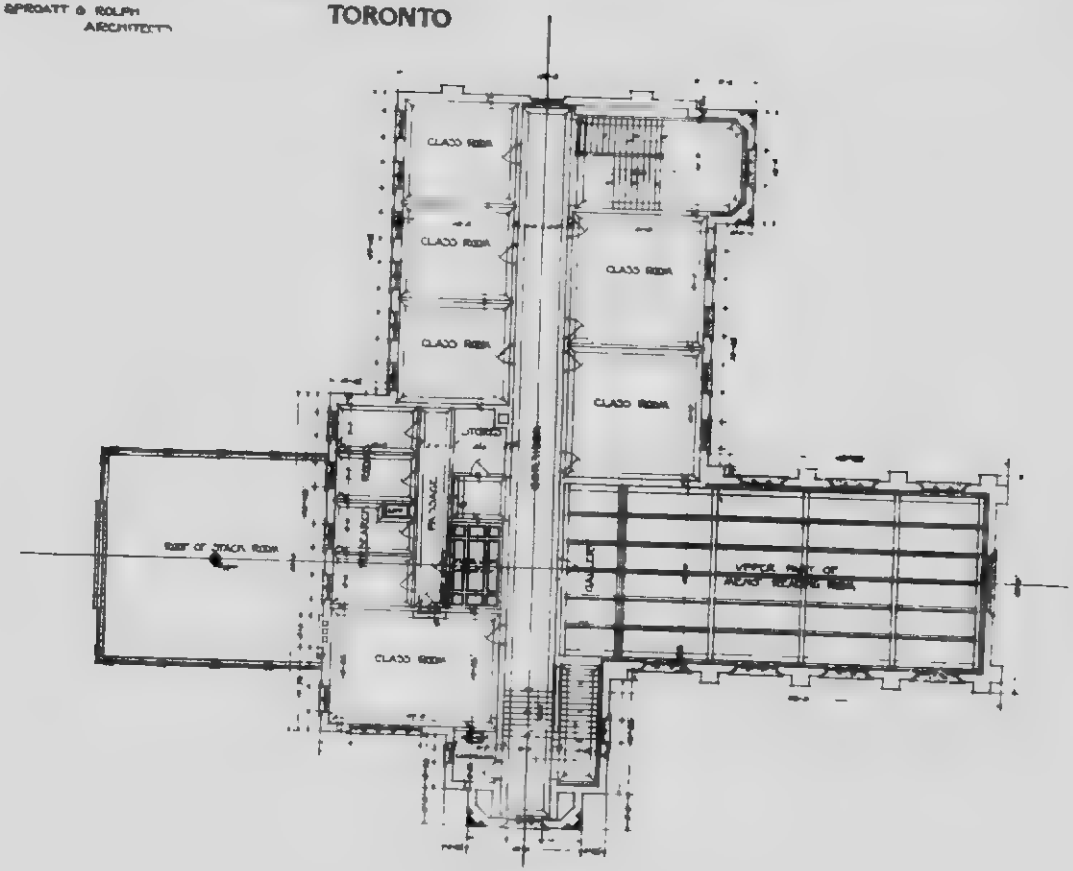
SPROATT & ROLPH
ARCHITECTS



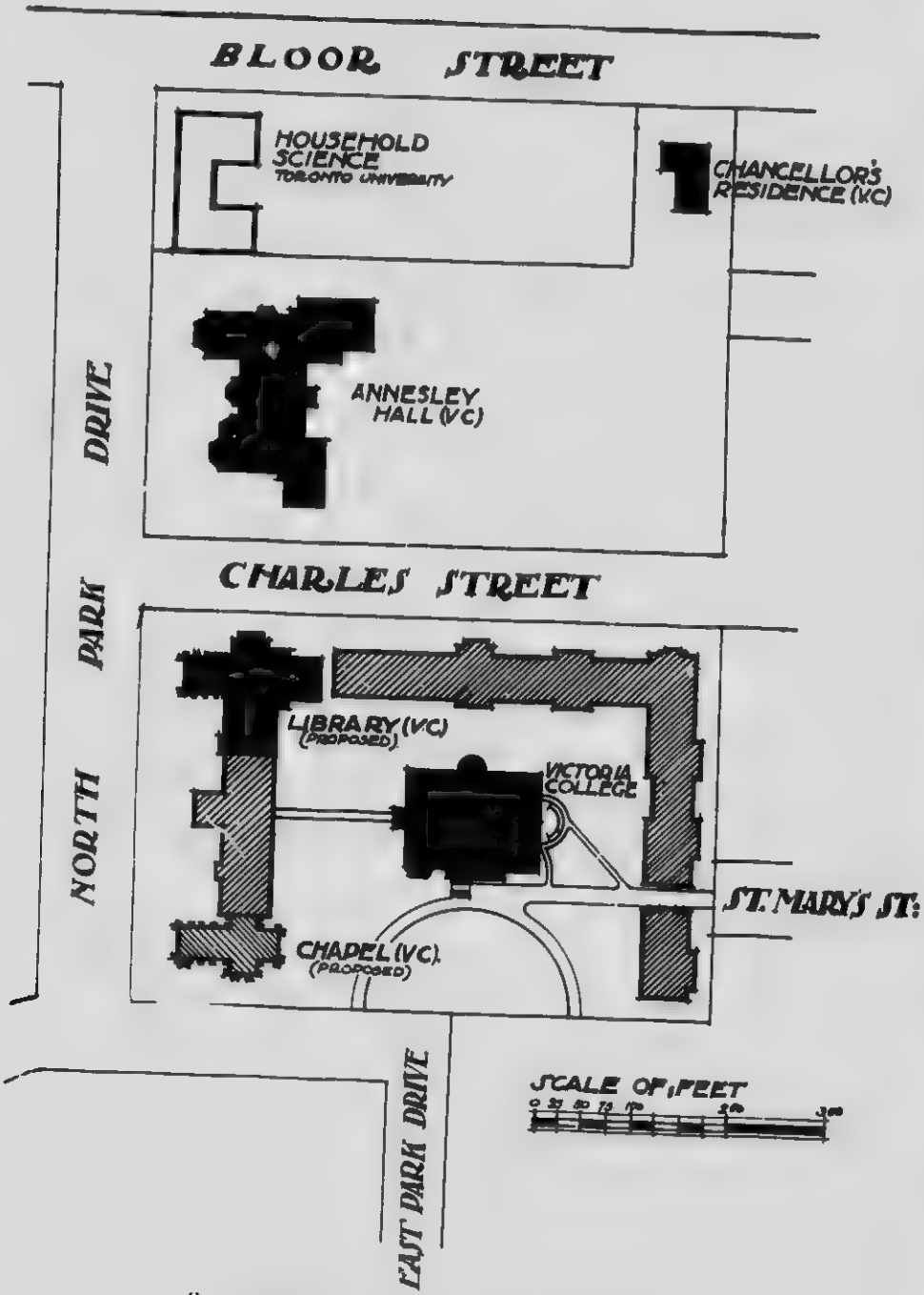
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/16"=1 FT.

LIBRARY FOR VICTORIA COLLEGE
TORONTO

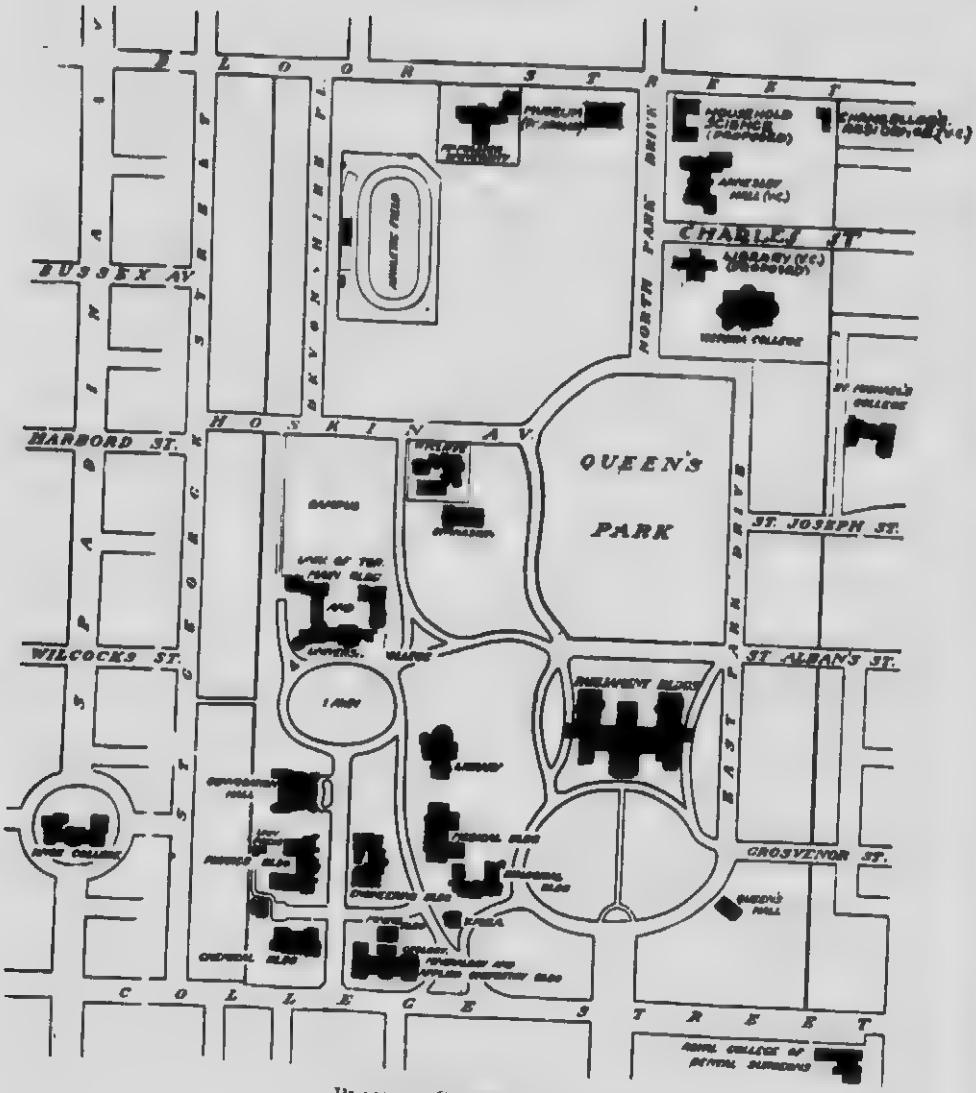
SPROATT & ROLPH
ARCHITECTS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE



SUGGESTED PLAN OF VICTORIA COLLEGE GROUNDS
(Including present and probable future buildings)



PLAN OF QUEEN'S PARK
(Showing position of Victoria College Buildings)

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No.

I Hereby Subscribe to the Library Building Fund of Victoria College, Toronto, the sum of

.... Dollars, payable to the Treasurer of Victoria College, Toronto, in three equal instalments on the first day of October in each of the years 1908, 1909 and 1910.

1908

Please mail subscription to Prof A. E. Lang, Librarian, Victoria College, Toronto.

(DUPLICATE FOR SUBSCRIBER)

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